

What is claimed is:

1. A collaboration method effected through a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising:

- 5 a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and
- 10 a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee
- 15 peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to
- 20 distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in said mail sending step, said URL includes an HTML

25 file and said HTML file has an URL of said host peer for use in peer connection.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein in said mail sending step, said URL described on said electronic mail includes a URL of an Internet service provider that dynamically allocates IP
5 addresses, and said URL described on said HTML file is a temporary URL, for use in peer connection, allocated from said Internet service provider to said conference host peer.

10 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein in said mail sending step, a specified time to start a conference and said URL are described on said electronic mail so that said conferee peers are kept on standby and activated at said specified time so
15 as to allow said conferee peers to automatically take part in the conference.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon
20 reception of an electronic mail, said conferee peer is activated at a specified time after correction of said time lag so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take part in a conference.

25 6. The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon reception of an electric mail, said conferee peer

automatically corrects the system time of the mail receiver side into the system time of the mail sender side and activates at a specified time so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take
5 part in a conference.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein in said data distribution step, when a conferee peer to be a data requester receives a plurality of
10 addresses of data distributors, said conferee peer searches a data distributor at a shortest time location through a communication test to each data distributor and requests data distribution of said data distributor at a shortest time location.

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8. The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing conference data as said data to be automatically distributed from said conference host peer to all
20 conferee peers or to a conferee peer that made a request.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein said data distribution step includes allowing
25 conference data to be automatically distributed before the conference starts through connection of said conference host peer and said conferee peers.

10. The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein
said data distribution step includes allowing a
conference log of the previous conference to be
automatically distributed as said data from said
5 conference host peer to all conferee peers or a
conferee peer that made a request.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said
data distribution step includes allowing said
10 conference log of the previous conference to be
distributed from a certain peer to only conferee
peers that took part halfway in the conference.

12. The method according to claim 1, further
15 comprising:

an application sharing step which includes
sharing any application currently running on a
plurality of conferee peers inclusive of said
conference host peer while a conference is being
20 held, and free-hand drawing or entering notes onto
images generated by said application.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein said
application sharing step includes uploading images
25 containing free-hand drawing to a Web server so as
to allow a browse by the browser.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said application sharing step includes arranging, on a Web screen to be browsed, URLs of conferee peers for automatically taking part in a conference only
5 by clicking once.

15. A collaboration system by a peer-to-peer network, said system comprising:

a mail sending unit which sends an electronic
10 mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution unit which searches a
15 conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribution data, and, after distribution of data, informs remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said
20 remaining conferee peers, and searches a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, said data distribution unit repeating the above processes
25 until data distribution completes.

16. A collaboration program allowing a computer

to execute:

a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes.

17. A computer readable record medium having thereon stored a program allowing a computer to execute:

a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after
5 distribution of data, informing remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said
10 conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes.